

**Tuesday, April 13, 2010 City Courtroom, City Hall**

**7:30 to 8:30 a.m.**

**Breakfast:** Members helped themselves to breakfast provided by E. W. James & Sons.

**7:35 Opening – Nan Rountree – It is Rodeo Week!**

**Member Introductions and Happenings.** Rountree reminded members that the main purpose of MBA is to promote our businesses and invited members to introduce themselves and provide information about happenings in town.

**Updates : Nan Rountree**

**MBA Announcements:** Carol Brown has been handling all the emails of announcements for MBA and is unfortunately resigning her position due to a change in her work responsibilities. We appreciate her assistance and good work. Carol Guest and Leslie Haywood-Moore are dividing Carol Brown's duties together for announcements.

**Front Table Update:** The front table at meetings will now have a section for members to market their individual businesses with flyers, etc. Nan reminded membership that MBA does not email sales information, so this is a great way to update other members about your business. She also reminded membership about keeping up with sales information on the MBA website and on the MBA Calendar.

**Mayor's Report: Randy Brundige**

Mayor Brundige updated membership on the progress of the new tornado sirens for the city. He specified that these sirens are not designed to be heard from inside homes but are designed to be heard from outside locations.

Brundige then fielded questions about the progress of Huddle House locating to Martin, questions of interest in the Martin Manufacturing Building, which has been previewed recently by an interested party, and a question about a new business, The Looking Glass: Coffee and Curiosities, which is planning an August, 2010 grand opening in downtown Martin.

**MBA – (2) Two Programs**

**First Speaker: Lori Cummings, Carl Perkins Child Abuse Center**

Cummings opened with the statement: "My story is clear. It shouldn't hurt to be a child, and yet our children are scared to death to tell if anything is happening to them. Children sometimes don't tell because they think child abuse in a family is reality and simply how everyone lives. No matter what is going on, our community is behind us to help us educate professionals and educate children and parents. It takes the community standing together to help children. "

Cummings continued relaying the goals of the Carl Perkins Child Abuse Center:

"Our first and foremost goal: We are a child abuse prevention program first. We also offer relative caregiver programs, adult education; a drug endangered program which came about because of the high meth drug use in our communities." She continued with the update that April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Cummings then reviewed the background on the blue ribbons on the "Believe in the Blue" buttons she had with her at the presentation. "It is important to carry this message about the blue ribbons. A lady had an only grandchild who was beaten to death by her daughter's boyfriend in 1987. In 1989, she took a single blue ribbon and tied it around her car radio antenna. Blue was symbolic because of the bruises on her grandchild's body and stood for what alternatives could have been done to save her grandchild. Within three years, it was a national campaign. It took her community making the difference by everyone following suit." She said this year's theme for the Carl Perkins Child Abuse Center was: "Families Under Construction – We Have Work to Do," and she passed out branded yellow hard hats and buttons to members.

Cummings reminded the membership of the April 24 Taste of Weakley and Obion County event. She stated that it was a time for the efforts of the Carl Perkins Child Abuse Center and its volunteers to shine at this event. Cummings then reviewed the program for the event. All restaurants in town who participated in the past are on board again. Attendees get to sample the restaurants favorite and best wares. The event includes an "All You Can Eat" sampling with a candlelight dinner atmosphere. Peace, Love and Happy Children is the theme. For an extra five dollars, you can buy a coin to play a game of heads and tails. Choices of prizes from an MTD Lawn edger, designer purse, trip to Destin, and perhaps a hot-air balloon ride; Many ways to enjoy an evening and contribute to child abuse prevention. There are over 250 silent auction items. Attire: Hippie attire, relaxed or dressed up. Just come and enjoy.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Speaker: Hollie Holt, The REED Center: UTM Regional Entrepreneurship & Economic Development Center**

Holt Opened with short story about an event in her neighborhood. Driving through her subdivision to take her son to Walmart, she saw something that caught her eye. One of the guests today at MBA, nine-year old Julianna Moore, had a lemonade stand set up in her front yard. Holt called Moore to the front to recognize her efforts. "Anytime I can support a budding entrepreneur, I try to do so," said Holt. Holt then continued saying this is an example of what the UTM Regional Entrepreneurship & Economic Development (REED) Center does to help small business. Holt then reviewed the services offered by the Reed Center:

Services include:

--One on one small business development counseling. Holt explained that the REED Center has hired a new counselor, Denise Newton, who has worked on Wall Street and in Boston and has financial counseling experience. Due to family obligations, Newton relocated to Kenton and has elected to stay in this area thus providing a great benefit to clients of the small business development counseling

services offered by the Reed Center. Holt said that the Reed Center's recent affiliation with the TN Small Business Network allowed them to hire Ms. Newton.

-- Small business development seminars. Holt named social media seminars as one example of this service. She continued stating the REED Center offers customer service, e-commerce, and small business loans seminars with SBA and nurtures many partnerships including ones with all the regional chambers. One program the REED Center promotes is a "Business Matters" seminar in Paris once a month for the chamber which has enjoyed much success. Holt said one goal of the REED Center staff is "for us to be out there in the communities to offer services."

Additional services include providing many software programs to business owners. Holt mentioned one program, "Selling Your Business and Buying a Business" as a valuable software to help an entrepreneur determine actual worth. Holt continued saying the REED Center also provides software that helps small businesses develop marketing strategy and software that highlights product viability plans through business plan writing, etc.

Holt then passed out brochures on the REED Center and its services. She reminded members that the REED Center location on Lindell is the old Martin Dance Studio location next to City Hall. Holt said they have received several grants through USDA to help renovate the building to provide the services they do. Holt continued citing that First State, First Citizens and Regions Bank assisted the REED Center in acquiring the financial backing to start the center downtown in Martin.

She updated members on the availability of approximately ten seminars that can be viewed at: [www.utm.edu/reed](http://www.utm.edu/reed). Participants can register for seminars online.

Holt concluded her presentation reiterating that the Reed Center advocates partnerships to achieve success. She provided an update on the upcoming May 18 – Economic and Business Development Summit which will be held at UTM in partnership with Dyersburg State Community College and a reminder about the **May 24 – MBA Mix and Mingle** at The REED Center from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. She asked the membership to please pass the information she has shared about the REED Center to others. "There are so many people out here who have these ideas and dreams. We provide the resources to help people decide what they want to do," said Holt.

#### **Member Committee Reports:**

**Long Range Planning Committee:** Nan Rountree: Long range planning MBA committee meeting to be held at the REED Center and is open to any member of MBA.

**Membership:** Roger Donaldson – New Businesses:

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**Old West Steak House at 943 E. Main Street in Martin.** Manager is Connie Outlaw. Old West Steak House is a full service restaurant with buffet. Hours are 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Fridays. Telephone: 731-587-9199.

**Martin Children’s Clinic** at 215 Hawks Road, Suite 3, in Martin. Owned by Sherri Page who is a pediatric nurse practitioner. She and her staff offer comprehensive pediatric care from birth to 21 years including well checks, sports physicals, sick visits and there is a child psychologist on site. Telephone: 731-681-1577 and web address is: martinchildrensclinic.com.

**Gastroenterology Associates , Dr. Nikhil Patel,** at 148 Mount Pelia Road in Martin. Dr. Nikhil Patel specializes in colon cancer prevention and digestive diseases. Telephone is: 731-587-5170.

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**Community Activities:** Dee Pritchett and Lynette Wagster. Several churches provided updates on events scheduled for April and May including: Central Baptist is hosting a concert on May 23 at 6 p.m. by Nathan Herron, and the Martin Church of Christ is hosting a Focus Youth Rally April 30 through May 2.

**Announcements: Nan Rountree:**

**MBA Reminders:** Door Stickers are available. Please take these and display at your location.

**MBA Emailing:** Leslie Moore and Carol Guest are working on a new email program to provide a more manageable emailing system for better communications. Members should expect a new format in the upcoming month.

**City Wide Clean Up:** David Sudberry has volunteered to help coordinate MBA Activities with the City Wide Clean Up.

**UTM Rodeo Reminder:** John Luthi – Rodeo Update starts with the Crawfish Supper at the Legion. Free Barbeque at 11 a.m. at the Ag Pavilion, Saturday. Thursday, Friday and Saturday – 7:30 p.m. Rodeo. Friday night is “Tough Men Wear Pink” where you can make a donation toward Breast Cancer Awareness.

Rountree reminded members that The REED Center and the Rodeo are two examples of services and programs that are unique from Martin.

**MBA Business Highlights:** Rountree said we are still in need of Business Articles for our MBA members. Free articles in the newspaper are available if you haven't been highlighted. Get articles to Chris Moore. Criteria for the articles is posted on the website.

**Weakley Co. Chamber of Commerce Banquet:** Audrey Roberts – Announcement – Weakley County Chamber of Commerce President's Banquet- April 27 – All the communities come together under the chamber. April 15 is the deadline for tickets. Citizen of the Community will be announced and it is also the venue for Graduation for Leadership Weakley Co.

**Ron Kirkland Visit:** Bennie Castleman with the Weakley Co. Republican Party: – TN House Candidate Ron Kirkland will be at Brandy's Restaurant at noon, April 13, today. Come out and meet.

**Next Month's Speakers:** Nan Rountree

**Alan Carey** will be our speaker on "*The Ins and Outs of Healthcare and Insurance Business.*"

**Tracy Rutledge**, instructor of communications at UTM will be our guest speaker on "*Maximizing Marketing Monies.*"

**Closing** – Nan Rountree

Rountree closed the meeting with a thank you to E. W. James & Sons for the breakfast. She also complimented members on the fact that all the breakfast slots for meetings are now filled. Our next MBA meeting is set for May 11 at 7:30 a.m. Rountree adjourned the meeting at 8:33 a.m.

28 members attended meeting.

Minutes respectfully submitted, April 28, 2010 by Leslie Haywood-Moore, Secretary